Central American NEWSLETTER

Newsletter of the Central American Group of the Spanish Main Society.

Editor: Bernard Davies, 16, Lynwood Close, Gordon Road, South Woodford, London E18 1DP 01-504-5042

Issue No 18 December 1984

EDITORIAL

Although this should reach you well before the Christmas rush, we would like to take the opportunity of wishing you all a very Happy Christmas, and a prosperous New Year.

We are as anxious as ever to receive articles and comments on all the Central American Republics. Please play your part in helping us to keep this Newsletter alive and kicking. We would, however, ask that members try to write some few lines of helpful comment or explanation when they send photostats. We are grateful for their free supply of photocopies to which we are treated, but on several occasions recently, we have received a wad of photocopies accompanied by minimal text, or even no text at all. This means that the Editor has to select from among the pile and attempt sensible comment, sometimes on a country about which he knows next to nothing. He himself collects Nicaragua, El Salvador and Honduras, and has some fragmentary memories of Costa Rica and Guatemala, which he used to collect some years ago. Of Haiti, Dominican Republic, Cuba, Panama etc. he has no knowledge at all.

It has been suggested that we should embark on the useful exercise of listing postal rates in the Central American countries. We are promised a start to such listings by Dr Richard Saundry (whose excellent display of Costa Rica Registration markings deservedly won the inaugural competition for the Spanish Main Cup), but we need ALL the information we can muster for ALL countries. If you will respond to this request, we hope to produce a usefully definitive listing within six months to a year from now. Do let us have all the information you can, while avoiding the oddities which so often bedevil "postal history" - i.e. we are not interested when someone puts 1c or 2c extra on a card or letter, simply because (one assumes) he hadn't the exactly correct stamp to hand and didn't want to delay while he went to the post office to buy the right one. By courtesy of John Fosbery, we include in this issue a listing of the Central American countries' rates when they joined the UPU. It is the changes occurring since then that interest us. We gratefully acknowledge John's help, always so freely given, and acknowledge our indebtedness to "The American Philatelist" from whose list of Latin American countries' starter rates, published by them in April 1979, this extract is taken.

Through our letter-box about a fortnight ago there plopped a little packet which investigation revealed to be our last year's medal from B.P.E. for this Newsletter. We had willed ourselves to forget that they had given us a bronze; if it had been a lead we might have consoled ourselves with Shakespeare's "Merchant of Venice" and believed that we were winners of something worthwhile. As it is, we feel like chimpanzees who have been offered over-ripe bananas while being criticised for not being giraffes! At least, we would have felt such depression, were it not for the expressions of gratitude and commendation which we received, especially from our Transatlantic friends, when we visited this year's B.P.E.. It was also consolation to see Mike Birks' splendid entry of the rail coupons and fiscal surcharge period of Nicaragua; its "silver" grading was not over-generous.

Bernard Davies

Editor

STANDARD RATES

From THE AMERICAN PHILATELIST of April 1979 — Country-by-Country Data of U.P.U.

	Date Entered Union	Currency Equal to Twenty-five Centimes	Currency Charged on Postal Cards	Surtax on 15 gram Letters	Surtax on Each Postal Card	Registration Fee
GUATEMALA	Aug 1 1881	5 centavos	2 centavos	5 centavos	1 centavo	10 centavos
HONDURAS	Oct 1 1879	25 centavos	10 centavos	5 centavos	1 centavo	10 centavos
NICARAGUA	May 1 1882	5 centavos	2 centavos	5 centavos	--	10 centavos
SALVADOR via Panama	Apr 1 1879	5 centavos	2 centavos	6 centavos	1 centavo	10 centavos
other route		5 centavos	2 centavos	5 centavos	1 centavo	10 centavos
COLOMBIA (incl PANAMA?)	Jul 1 1881	5 centavos	2 centavos	5 centavos	--	10 centavos
CUBA and PUERTO RICO	May 1 1877	5 centimos	2 centimos	--	--	--
DOMINICAN REP	Oct 1 1880	25 centavos	10 centavos	--	--	10 centavos
HAITI	Jul 1 1881	5 centimes	2 centimes	5 centimes	1 centime	10 centimes
MEXICO	Apr 1 1879	5 centavos	2 centavos	--	--	10 centavos
BR HONDURAS	Jan 1 1879	2½ pence	1 penny	--	--	4 pence

no listing of COSTA RICA

Presumably "surtax" means extra charge to USA as opposed to internal mail.

CAUSERIE

0327 Edgardo Alegria R. informs us that there are three periods in which validation signatures were used by Honduras. They are:

1. 1924: facsimilies of Santiago Herrera (Cortés), and Francisco Cáceres (Atlántida). The reason: to control stolen stamps during revolution led by General Francisco Ferrera.
2. 1932-1935: facsimiles of all the Fiscal Revenue Office Administrators of Honduras, one for each of the 17 departments in which the Country was politically divided at the moment. In many cases there is more than one facsimile for each department due to the change of Administrators. The reason: to control stamps stolen during the 1932 revolution led by General Tiburcio Carías Andino which overthrew President Vicente Mejía Colíndres. These signatures appear mainly on Scott 298-331.
3. 1958-60: facsimiles of 12 Revenue P.A.. Reason: the General Fiscal Revenue Office burned down and it was believed some stamps were stolen. The order for the facsimile control was given to all the Administrators but for some reason (inefficiency) only 12 complied with it.

THE FIRST NICARAGUAN CAMPAIGN by Michael P Birks

In earlier articles (CAN 8 & 12), I wrote that no mail bearing US Marine cancellations of land based forces had come to light despite a post office being in existence, and another cancellation being recorded in the official postal guides of the time. This situation remains unchanged as far as I am aware.

However a most important find has been brought to my attention by Kilian Nathan, who has kindly supplied a photocopy.

The find is a coloured post card depicting Leon station, sent by a Marine to his sister living in N.Y.. He writes "Just a view of the railroad station here", which ties the card to Nicaragua. It was posted on board USS Birmingham on May 26, 1922, and probably arrived in New York, certainly the US, on June 20, 1922, the date in the duplex cancelling the stamp.

How important is it? This card is the only known example, as far as I am aware, of mail which can be positively identified with the first Nicaraguan campaign. Perhaps some reader can identify the USS Birmingham as a troop transport, as they were not eligible for a campaign ribbon, and therefore do not appear in official records.

Footnote: A 1910 photographic post card of mine depicts the same "station", but without the building, and the passengers standing in the mud by the track.

UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE

Vale un centavo

TARJETA POSTAL

(CARTE POSTALE)

ESCRÍBASE DE ESTE LADO LA DIRECCION Y LA COMUNICACIÓN

TRIBUNAL DE CUEN

Sr.

UNION POSTAL UNIVERSAL

731

UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE

Vale un centavo

TARJETA POSTAL

(CARTE POSTALE)

ESCRÍBASE DE ESTE LADO LA DIRECCION Y LA COMUNICACIÓN

TRIBUNAL DE CUEN

Sr.

UNION POSTAL UNIVERSAL

UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE

Vale un centavo

TARJETA POSTAL

(CARTE POSTALE)

ESCRÍBASE DE ESTE LADO LA DIRECCIÓN Y LA COMUNICACIÓN

TRIBUNAL DE CUEN

Sres Rosenthurn Hnos

Cesar Salvador

UNION POSTAL UNIVERSAL

SOME INTERESTING EL SALVADOR POSTAL STATIONERY by BILL WALTON

The previous page shows H&G 73 and 74 mint, and 75 used in July 1912. All are revalued to one centavo at the upper left, and all have the imprinted stamp obliterated with the Tribunal de Cuentas black handstamp. This page shows a formula card of the same type as H&G 66-69, but with a different adhesive (SG 642); this card was used in February 1912, and would be "75A" in H&G (note the identical revalue at upper left).

Why were one cent cards needed so badly? What was Tribunal de Cuentas?

CAUSERIE

1703 We have had a quite enormous response to Mike Birks comment on the PAGUEBOT (rather than PAQUEBOT) strike, to which the Editor added a fatuous comment. Doug. Bayliss says that the strike comes in two sizes. Cecile Gruson says that Guatemalan PAQUEBOT markings are also spelled PAGUEBOT and was kind enough to send us a photostat, showing New Orleans receival mark 6 Aug. 1929. Therein lies the answer. As Brian Moorhouse tells me PAGUEBOT was the normal strike of the New Orleans packet boat; from 1916 to as late as 1973. Doug. Bayliss thinks it can be found as early as 1903-04, however. George Richardson writes:-

> "The PAGUEBOT mark referred to by Mike Birks is almost certainly that of New Orleans. Philip Cockrill in "Ocean Mails", records three distinctive straight line Paquebot marks for this usual port of entry for the considerable volume of mail from Central American sources (and others) travelling north to/via the USA. Two of these marks have the spelling PAGUEBOT, the third the more usual PAQUEBOT.
>
> The variety of Paquebot marks is considerable, and come complete with a range of types and spellings. Interestingly Cockrill says the Spanish equivalents of "Paquebot" are found in the marks "Buzon Vapores" and "Buzones Vapores" meaning "Steamer Letter Box".
>
> I for one would welcome more information on New Orleans and its connection/ use as a transit port for Central American and other mail."

POSTAL STATIONERY CUT-OUTS OF NICARAGUA

by KILIAN NATHAN

There has recently been discussion in "The Mainsheet", concerning the use of cut-outs of the 1900 Momotombo postal stationery. This contemporary issue of that magazine should contain my answer to the points made so far, together with some illustrations. The general gist of my comments is that the "cuts" are not taken from postal stationery envelopes, the size of the "cut" and the quality of the paper assuring us that this was not the case. Comparison of the illustrated 1891 cut-outs from postal stationery envelopes with the 1900 cover from San Juan del Norte to London shows the difference quite clearly. It still remains something of a mystery what these "cuts", most of which are to be found used in 1903 and 1904, actually were. Could they have been "samples" or "colour print specimens" sent to Managua by the American Bank Note Company, and used by the administration for sale at post offices when (as so frequently happened) stamps were in short supply?

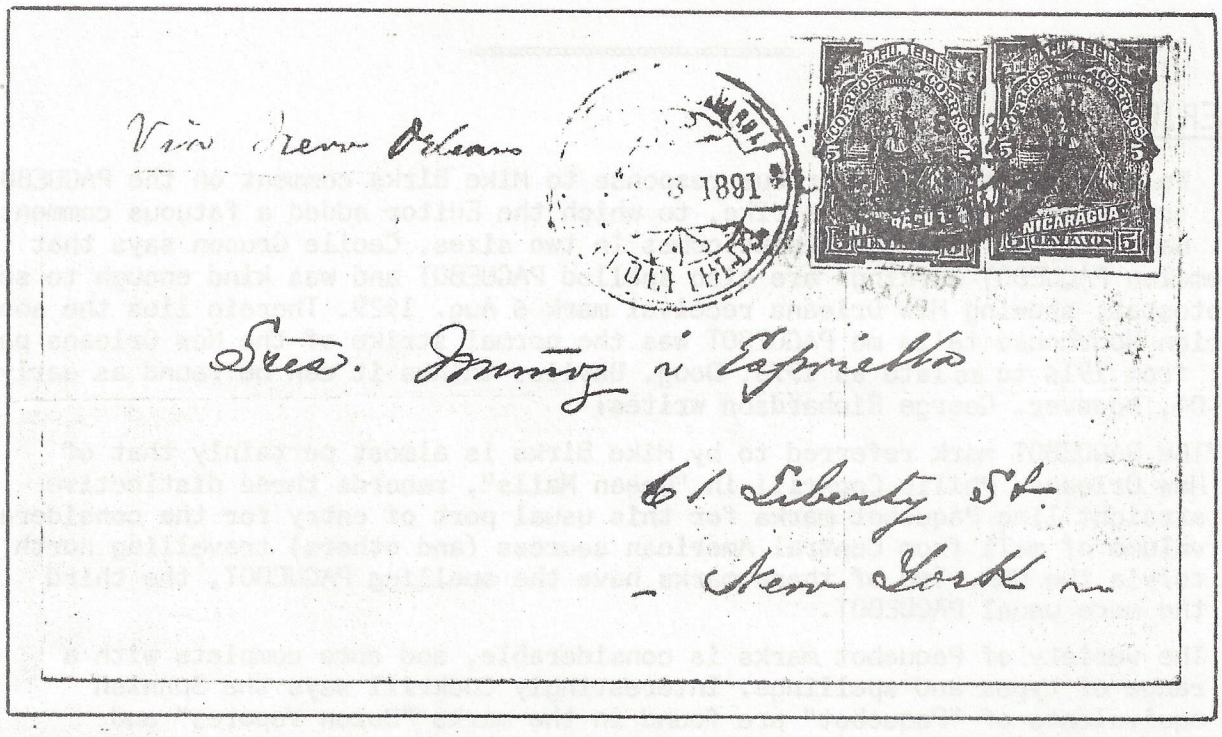
N I C A R A G U A

Second "Seebeck" issue, lithographed, 1 8 9 1

Printed: Hamilton Bank Note Co., New York

ENVELOPE "CUTS" USED AS STAMPS !

Cover from Bluefields to New York, N.Y.



Cancelled Bluefields May 8, 1891
Transit postmark New Orleans May 14, 1891
Arrival postmark New York May 16, 1891

N I C A R A G U A

1900

Cover from San Juan del Norte to London

Envelope "cuts" used as stamps

Cancelled San Juan del Norte June 18, 1903
Transit postmark New York June 30, 1903

N I C A R A G U A

1 9 0 2 lithographed

Printed: Mr. H. Braunlich, New York

Cover from **B O C A SAN CARLOS** to Zürich, Switzerland

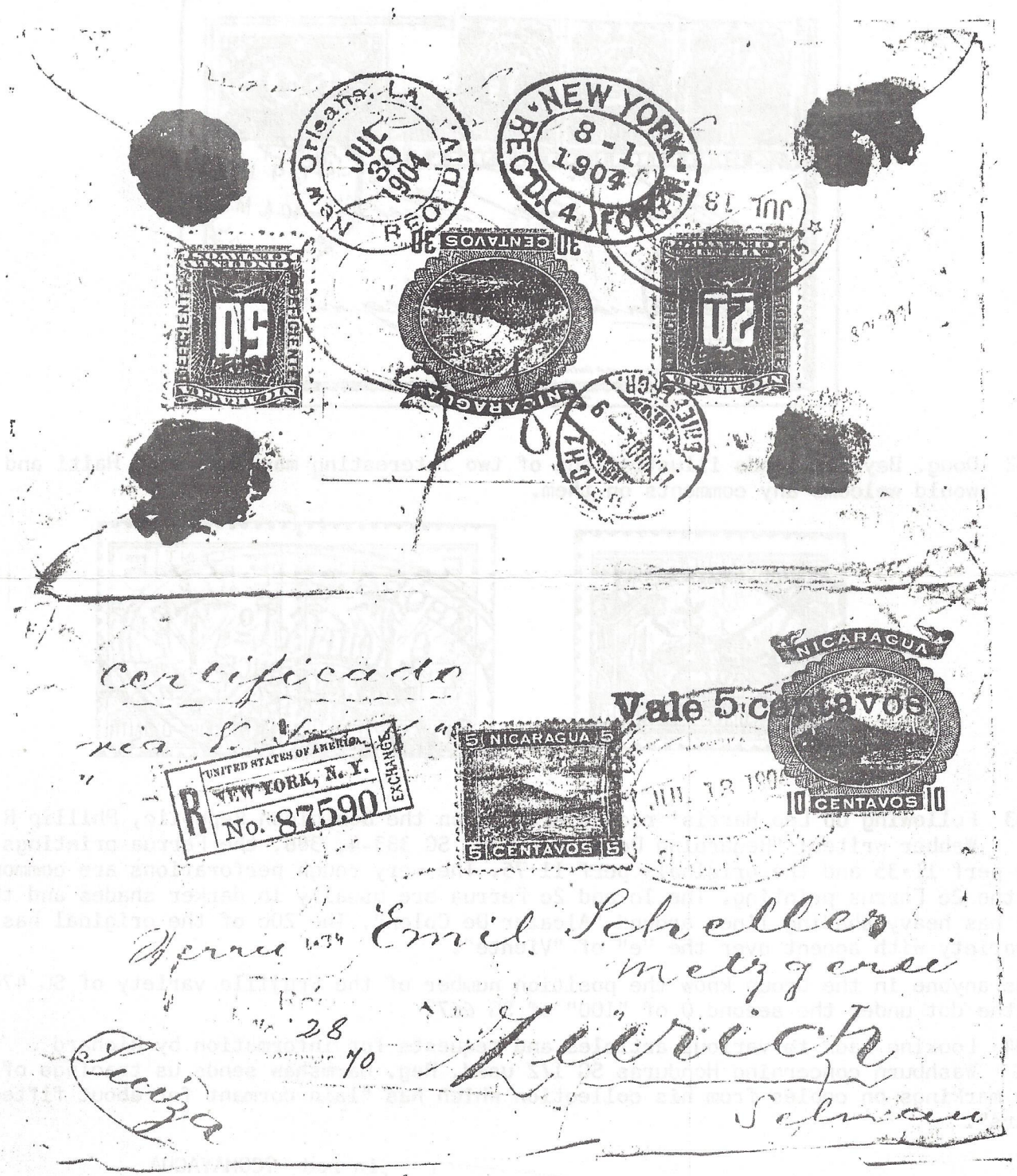
↑

"ENVELOPE CUT" used as postage stamp

N I C A R A G U A

1901 Provisional overprint

Cover from San Juan del Norte to Zürich



Cancelled San Juan del Norte July 13, 1904
Transit postmark New Orleans July 30, 1904
Transit postmark New York August 1, 1904
Arrival postmark Zürich August 11, 1904

NEW CAUSERIE

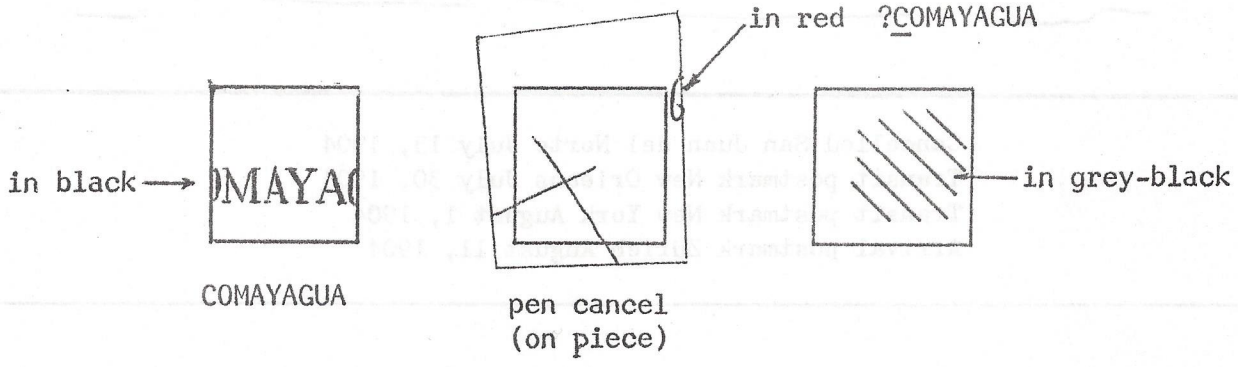
1801 In response to Quetzal's article in Issue No 15, Chris. Bettis encloses the photograph which he describes as follows: "I.S.G.C. 118, three copies on half of PC12 (which is invalid at this date) from Retalhuleu via Guatemala and CDT 27 all in purple."

1802 Doug. Bayliss sends illustrations of two interesting markings from Haiti and would welcome any comments on them.

1803 Following up Leo Harris' recent article on the Dominican Republic, Phillip R Webber writes: "Regarding Dominican Rep. SG 383-4, 386, the Ferrua printings are perf 11·35 and the originals perf 11·75. The very rough perforations are common on the 2c Ferrua printing. The 1c and 2c Ferrua are usually in darker shades and the 10c has heavy shading lines around "Alcazar De Colon". The 20c of the original has a variety with accent over the "e" of "Viente".

Does anyone in the Group know the position number of the Frujillo variety of SG 474 or the dot under the second 0 of "100" of SG 667?

1804 Looking back to various articles and requests for information by Richard Washburn concerning Honduras SG 1/2 used, Reg. Harmshaw sends us tracings of the markings on copies from his collection which has "lain dormant for about fifteen years".



363	2c/35c	321
a	9131	a
b	do	b
364	2c/50c	322
a	do	a
365	2c/2p	323
a	VALB	a
b	"V"	b
c	"VALE"	c
d	"dos"	d
366	3c/6c	324
a	VALB	a
b	e↓	U
367	½c/2c	325
a	corooba	a
b	do	b
368	1c/3c	326
369	1c/4c	327
370	1c/6c	328
371	1c/20c	329
372	1c/25c	330
373	2c/25c	332
a	9131	a
b	do	b
374	5c/35c	333
375	5c/50c	334
a	↑↑	a
376	6c/1p	335
377	10c/2p	336
a	large 0	U
378	1p/5p	337
379	2c/4c	337A
a	Cent	b
380	2c/20c	337C
a	Cent	d
381	2c/25c	337E
a	Cent	f
382	2c/35c	337G
a	Cent	h
383	2c/50c	337I
a	Cent	j
U	2c/15c/35c	337K
384	2c/1c	331
a	Cent	a
385	½c/15c/35c	338
a	↓	b
b	↑↑	a
U	½c/35c	c
386	1c/15c/35c	339
a	↑↑	a

1914 Official Sur

387	1c/25c	340
a	↑↑	a
388	1c/35c	341
a	0.10	a
389	1c/1p	342
a	5c/1pR	347
b	↑R↑Bk	U
390	2c/20c	342A
U	0.12	b
391	2c/50c	343
a	0.12	a
b	1c/50c	341B
392	2c/2p	344
393	5c/5p	346
a	↑R	348
b	2c/5p	345

1914 Pal & Cath

394	½c	349
395	1c	350
396	2c	351
397	3c	352
398	4c	353
399	5c	354
400	6c	355
401	10c	356
402	15c	357
403	20c	358
404	25c	359
405	50c	360

Officials

0406	1c	0260
0407	2c	0261
0408	3c	0262
0409	4c	0263
0410	5c	0264
0411	6c	0265
0412	10c	0266
0413	15c	0267
0414	20c	0268
0415	25c	0269
0416	50c	0270

1915

406	5c/6c	361
a	↑↑	a

1918-19

407	½c/6c	366
a	meio	a
b	m↓	U
c	↑↑	b
408	½c/10c	367
a	Val	a
b	codoba	b
c	↓	c
d	↑↓	d
409	½c/15c	368
a	meio	c
b	codoba	b
c	↑↑	a
410	½c/25c	369
a	↑↑	a
b	↑↓	b
411	½c/50c	370
a	meio	a
b	↑↑	b
c	↑↓	c
412	½c/50cR	371
a	↑↑	a
413	1c/3c	372
a	uu	U
b	↑↑	a
414	1c/6c	373
a	uu	U
b	↑↑	a
415	1c/10c	374
a	nu	a
416	1c/15c	375
a	nn	U
b	codoba	b
c	↑↑	a
417	1c/20c	376
a	Val	U
b	↑Bk↑R	b
c	↑Bk↓R	a
U	↑Bl	c
418	1c/20cR	378
a	uu	U
b	Val	b
c	↑↓	a
419	1c/20cV	377
a	Val	U
b	↑V↑Bk	a
420	1c/25c	379
a	↑↑	a
421	1c/50c	380
a	↑↑	a
422	2c/4c	381
a	it o	U
b	s↓	U
c	avo	b
d	↑↑	a
U	Val	c
423	2c/6c	382
a	it o	U
b	it s	U
c	bas	b
d	voss	a
424	2c/10c	383
a	avo	a
b	it s	U
425	2c/10cR	384
a	pe	a
b	avo	c
c	it s	U
d	↑↑	d
e	↑R↑Bk	b
426	2c/25c	385
a	Vle	a
b	codoba	b
c	s↓	U
d	↓	e
427	5c/6c	386
a	↑↑	a
428	5c/15c	387
a	coun	a
b	Vle	b
c	codoba	c

1918

429	1c/3c	362
a	↑↓	a
430	2c/4c	363
431	5c/15c	364
a	↑↑	a
b	↑Bk	364C

1919

432	1c/25c	388
a	uu	U
b	nn	U
c	↓	b
d	↑↑	a
433	2c/50c	389
a	avo	a
b	↑↑	b

1919 Bluefields

434	2c/20c	391
a	-	a
b	-	b
c	-	c
d	-	d
e	-	e
435	5c/20c	392
a	-	a
b	-	b
c	-	c
d	-	d
e	-	e
f	-	f
g	↑↑	h
436	2c/20c	393
a	-	a
b	-	b
c	-	c
d	-	d
e	-	e
f	-	f
437	5c/20c	393G

1919

438	2c/20c	365
a	ppr	a
b	dc	U
c	dobo	c
d	↑↑	b
439	5c/20c	365D
a	dobo	f
b	↑R	U
c	↑Bk↑R	

1920

440	1c/2c	394
a	↓	a
b	↑↑	b

1921 "Particular"

441	1c	395
a	Parr	a
b	↓	b
442	5c	396
a	Parr	a
443	10c/20cBl	390F
443a	10c/20cBk	390
b	ovos	a
c	da	U
d	dc	U
e	↑↑	b

1921 on Officials

444	½c/2c	397
a	mddio	a
b	dc	U
c	e↓	U
445	½c/4c	398
a	mddio	a
b	dc	U
c	e↓	U
d	↑↓	U
446	1c/3c	399
a	↑↑	U
b	spec	U
447	½c/5c	400
a	mcdio	U

1921 R de C

448	1c	RA5
449	1c/5c	RA1
a	uu	U
450	1c/6c	RA2
a	uu	U
U	↑↓	a
451	1c/10c	RA3
a	uu	U
b	↑↑	a
452	1c/15c	RA4
a	uu	U
b	↑↓	a

1921 Fisc R de C

453	1c/1c	RA6
454	1c/2c	RA7
a	↑↑	a
b	↑↓	b
455	1c/4c	RA8
a	↑↑	a
456	1c/15c	RA9
a	↑↑	a

1921 Independence

457	½c	401
458	1c	402
459	2c	403
460	5c	404
461	10c	405
462	25c	406
463	50c	407

1922 R de C

464	1c/10c	RA10
a	de.	a
b	"."	e
c	↓	d
d	↑↑	b
e	↓↓	c

1922-4 Pal & Cath

465	½c	408
466	1c	409
467	2c	410
468	3c	411
U	4c	411A
469	6c	412
470	15c	413
471	20c	414
472	C1	415

1922 R de C

473	1c	RA11
a	↑↑	a
474	1c/1c	RA12
475	1c/5c	RA13
476	1c/10c	RA14
477	1c/25c	RA15
a	↓	a
478	1c/50c	RA16
a	↓	a

1922-3 R de C/Fis

479	1c	RA17
a	"."	a
480	1c	RA18
a	"."	a
b	↓	U
481	1c	RA24

1922 Surcharges

482	1c/10c	416
483	2c/10c	417
484	1c/5c	418
485	2c/10c	419
a	↑↑	U
U	↓	a
486	½c	420
487	1c	421
a	↑↑	a

1923 R de C

488	1c/2c	RA19
a	uu	U
b	"."	U
489	1c/5c	RA20
a	uu	U
b	"."	U
490	1c/10c	RA21
a	uu	U
b	"."	U
491	1c/25c	RA22
a	uu	U
b	"."	U
492	1c/50c	RA23
a	uu	U
b	"."	U
493	1c/1c	RA24
a	↑↓	a

1924 R de C

494	1c	RA26
a	↑↑	a

1924 Founding

495	1c	422
496	2c	423
497	5c	424
498	10c	425

1925 R de C

499	1c	RA27

1925 Officials

0500	½c	0271
a	↑↑	a
0501	1c	0272
0502	2c	0273
0503	3c	0274
0504	4c	0275
a	↑↑	a
0505	5c	0276
a	↑↑	a
0506	6c	0277
0507	10c	0278
a	↑↑	a
0508	15c	0279
0509	20c	0280
0510	25c	0281
a	↓	a
0511	50c	0282
U	↑↑	a

1926 R de C

512	1cBl	RA28

1926 Officials

0513	½c	0283
0514	1c	0284
0515	2c	0285
0516	3c	0286
0517	4c	0287
0518	5c	0288
0519	6c	0289
0520	10c	0290
0521	15c	0291
0522	20c	0292
0523	25c	0293
0524	50c	0294

1927 Resello

525	½cV	440
a	↓	a
b	↑↑	b
526	½cBk	427
527	½cR	U
528	1cV	441
a	↑↑	a
529	1cBk	428B
a	↑↑	U
530	1cR	428
a	s↓	U
b	↑↑	a
531	2cV	442
a	s↓	U
b	1927↑↑	b
c	↑↑	a
d	↑↓	c
532	2cBk	429
a	s↓	U
b	↓	a
c	↑↑	b
533	3cV	443
a	"Resello"	b
b	↓	a
c	↑↓	c
534	3cBk	430
a	Rseello	U
b	1297	U
c	↓	a
d	↑↑	b
e	↑↓	c
535	3cBl	430D
536	4cV	444
a	↓	a
537	4cBk	431
a	Rseello	U
b	↓	a
c	↑↑	U
538	5cV	445
a	↑↓	a
539	5cBk	432B
a	↑↑	d
b	↑↓	c
540	5cR	432
a	↓	a
541	6cV	446
a	1297	U
b	↓	a
c	↑↑	U
542	6cBk	433
a	1297	U
b	↓	a
c	↑↑	b
543	10cV	447
a	↑↑	a
544	10cBl	434
a	↑↑	a
b	↑↓	b
545	15cV	448
a	↑↑	a
b	↑↓	b
546	15cBk	435
a	Rseello	U
b	1297	U
c	↑↓	U
547	20cV	449
a	↑↑	a
548	20cBk	436
a	↑↑	a
549	25cV	450
550	25cBk	437
551	50cV	451
a	↑↓	a
552	50cBk	438
553	C1V	452
a	1297↑↑	b
b	↑↑	a
c	↑↓	c
554	C1Bk	439

1927 R de C

555	1cV	RA30
a	↓	b
b	↑↑	a
556	1cBk	RA32
a	↑↑	b
b	↑↓	a
557	1cR	RA29
a	↓	b
b	↑↑	a
558	1cBl	RA31
a	↑↑	a
U	1cBk	RA33

1928 Resello

559	½c	453
a	↑↑	a
b	↑↓	b
560	1c	454
a	928	d
b	↓	a
c	↑↑	b
d	↑↓	c
561	2c	455
a	928	d
U	928↓	e
b	19	f
c	"1928"	c
d	↓	a
e	↑↑	b
562	3c	456
563	4c	457
564	5c	458
a	↑↑	a
b	↑↓	b
565	6c	459
566	10c	460
a	↓	b
b	↑↑	a
567	15c	461
568	20c	462
a	↑↑	a
569	25c	463
a	↑↓	a
570	50c	464
571	C1	465

1928 Resello/R de C

572	1c	RA34
a	928	b
b	↑↑	a

1928 Resello Bk

573	1c	RA35
a	1828	a

1928 Correos

574	½c	466
575	1c	467
a	"1928"	a
576	3c	469
a	↑↑	a
577	4c	470
578	5c	471
a	↑↑	a
579	6c	472
a	↑↑	a
580	10c	473
581	15c	474
a	↑↑	a
582	20c	475
583	25c	476
a	↑↓	a
584	50c	477
585	C1	478
a	↑↑	a
586	2c/4c	479
a	↑↑	a

1928 Sur Tel

587	1c/5c	480
a	↑↑	a
b	↑↓	b
588	2c/5c	481
a	↑↑	a
589	3c/5c	482
590	1c/5c	RA36
a	R,	a
b	"."	b
c	".."	c